

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086821
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 NRC-05 SIG-03 /151 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/MA/IR:JKWARD
APPROVED BY ACDA/MA/IR:CCFLOWERREE
ACDA/NP:DRUST
ACDA/PA:THALSTEAD
EUR/NE:JSHUMATE
EUR/PRS:FSEIDNER
PM/DCA:MARIETTI

-----111702 042341Z /17

O R 042313Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, UN, UK, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON CUT-OFF OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MA-
TERIALS

REF: LONDON 2787 STATE 54218

1. NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE APRIL 3 REPORTED THAT DEFENSE
SECRETARY BROWN HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE WHITE HOUSE
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OVER A STATE DEPARTMENT/ACDA PROPOSAL CALLING FOR A
STUDY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT
BANNING THE PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, SECRETARY BROWN NOTED THAT
THE PENTAGON SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE THE PRO-
POSAL WAS FORWARDED TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND THAT A

MATERIALS CUT-OFF AT THIS TIME COULD PRECLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF ADEQUATE WEAPONS EVEN IF SALT TWO WERE TO BE ACHIEVED.

3. THERE FOLLOWS VERBATIM TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 3. DEPARTMENT'S PREPARED FOLLOW-UP TO TWO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE BRIEFING IS ALSO PROVIDED:

Q TOM, ARE YOU BRIEFED AT ALL ON THE REPORTED DISPUTE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PENTAGON -- NAMELY, SECRETARY BROWN -- CONCERNING A PROPOSAL BY SECRETARY VANCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO BAN A PRODUCTION OF MATERIAL USED IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

A ALL SECRETARY VANCE REQUESTED WAS THE COMMISSIONING OF AN INTERAGENCY STUDY. HE RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE GOOD ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION. THE SECRETARY THINKS THAT THIS --

Q COULD YOU GO A LITTLE SLOWER, PLEASE?

A YES

THE SECRETARY -- THAT IS, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE -- THINKS THAT THIS COULD BE A GOOD IDEA, BUT HE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATURALLY AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED STUDY. HE HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND.

NOW, LET ME SAY THAT THE INTERAGENCY STUDY PROPOSED BY SECRETARY VANCE WOULD INVOLVE ALL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. ALL AGENCIES WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ARRIVING AT THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

Q ALL RIGHT. NOW, THE POINT IS: WAS THIS LETTER SENT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AND IS THAT CONTRARY TO PROCEDURE?

A GREAT POINT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE CLOSENESS OF SECRETARY VANCE AND SECRETARY BROWN IN CONSIDERING MANY ISSUES. IS THIS AN ABERRATION OR IS THERE SOME FUNDAMENTAL REASON HERE FOR THIS DIFFERENCE?

A I KNOW THAT SECRETARY VANCE AND SECRETARY BROWN CONSULT QUITE FREQUENTLY; AND AS TO WHAT THE NORMAL PROCEDURES ARE, I'M JUST NOT SURE. BUT THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO CUT THE PENTAGON OUT OF THIS. IN FACT, THE

PENTAGON WILL BE A MEMBER. IF THE PRESIDENT AGREES THAT AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE SHOULD BE SET UP TO STUDY THIS QUESTION, THE PENTAGON WOULD BE ON THAT TASK FORCE, ACCORDING TO THE RECOMMENDATION WHICH SECRETARY VANCE MADE.

Q THE STORY IN THE TIMES SAYS THAT BROWN WROTE TO BREZEZINSKI ON FRIDAY PROTESTING THAT THE PENTAGON HAD BEEN IGNORED IN FASHIONING THE PROPOSAL AND THAT THE VANCE LETTER SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE PRESIDENT

BEFORE THE VIEWS OF THE DEFENSE OFFICIALS WERE SOUGHT. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THAT?

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A NO, I HAVE NO RESPONSE TO THAT; BUT I'M SURE THAT NOW THEY ARE BEING CONSULTED ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY TRICKSTERISM INVOLVED HERE.

Q WERE THEY CONSULTED BEFORE THE --

Q WHERE DID THE PROPOSAL ORIGINATE?

A I'D HAVE TO CHECK THAT. THE ARTICLE THIS MORNING SAID THAT IT ORIGINATED AT THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, BUT I'D HAVE TO CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q WELL, I'M TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS SIMPLY PASSING ON A PROPOSAL HERE OR WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT ITSELF IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN IT.

4. QUESTIONS TAKEN AND PREPARED RESPONSE.

Q WHERE DID THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERAGENCY STUDY OF THIS QUESTION ORIGINATE?

Q DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT SIMPLY PASS ON A PROPOSAL TO THE PRESIDENT OR IS THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF INTERESTED IN IT?

A (ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS). AS PART OF THE US GOVERNMENT'S PREPARATION FOR THE UNITED NATION'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY DEVELOPED A LIST OF ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN FORMULATING THE UNITED STATES POSITION. ONE ISSUE IDENTIFIED BY ACDA WAS THE QUESTION OF A CUT-OFF OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSION-ABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS USE BY THE US AND USSR. SECRETARY VANCE AGREED THAT THIS QUESTION, WHICH
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HAS BEEN A LONG-STANDING US PROPOSAL, SHOULD BE
EXAMINED IN PREPARATION FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION. A
JOINT MEMORANDUM RECOMMENDING THAT THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION AN INTERAGENCY STUDY OF THE QUESTION WAS
THEN PREPARED BY STATE AND ACDA FOR SUBMISSION TO
THE PRESIDENT.

5. FOR LONDON: THE ABOVE IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND IN CASE
THE FCO RAISES THIS ISSUE IN CONNECTION WITH PREVIOUS
INQUIRIES ON US INTENTIONS (LONDON 2787).

6. FOR MOSCOW/TOKYO, OTTOWA: FYI. VANCE

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 NRC-05 SIG-03 /151 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ACDA/MA/IR/CCFLOWERREE

APPROVED BY: ACDA/MA/IR/CCFLOWERREE

NOTE TO ANA FROM MPI: REENTERED DUE TO CLASSIFICATION CHANGE
TO L.O.U. VICE UNCLASS)

-----038376 071251Z /53

P 070135Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (CLASS. CHANGED TO LOU VICE UNCLASS)

FOL STATE 086821 SENT ACTION LONDON INFO OTTAWA TOKYO MOSCOW

APR 4, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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TAGS: PARM, US, UN, UK, UR

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6. FOR MOSCOW TOKYO, OTTAWA: FYI. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE086821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKWARD
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780146-0027
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780493/aaaadbdu.tel
Line Count: 378
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c117db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 2787
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3076551
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE ON CUT-OFF OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS MA- TERIALS
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US, UK, UR, UN
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c117db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014